

Message Text

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46

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 IO-12 SS-14

NSC-10 L-03 H-02 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 DOTE-00 OC-06

PPTE-00 SCA-01 PM-09 OPR-02 PER-05 AID-20 PC-04 /170 W
----- 070805

R 160730 Z MAR 73

FM AMCONSUL DOUALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0435

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

UNCLAS DOUALA 0067

PASS COMMERCE

LAGOS FOR FAA

RABAT FOR CAA

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRN, ATRN, CM

SUBJECT: GURC ISSUES DECREE LIMITING AIRLINE TICKETING OPERATIONS

SUMMARY, NEW PRESIDENTIAL DECREE ESTABLISHES VIRTUAL MONOPOLY
FOR NATIONAL AIRLINE IN ALL AGENCY AND TICKETING OPERATIONS
OUTSIDE DOUALA. SOME CONFUSION IS CERTAIN BECAUSE CAMAIR IS
NON- IATA CARRIER WHOSE TICKETS ARE NOT RECOGNIZED BY MOST WORLD
AIRLINES OPERATING OUTSIDE AFRICA. AIRLINES REPRESENTED LOCALY

HAVE NOT YET MADE DECISION ON REACTION TO MEASURE.

1. ON MARCH 8, PRESIDENT AHIDJO SIGNED A DECREE (PUBLISHED FIVE
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DAYS LATER) ESTABLISHING EXCLUSIVE AIRLINE AGENCY AND TICKET SALE RIGHTS FOR CAMEROON AIRLINES IN ALL CITIES IN COUNTRY OUTSIDE DOUALA, UNDER DECREE, IT IS NOW NECESSARY THAT ALL TICKETS, OTHER THAN THOSE WRITTEN AT AGENCIES IN DOUALA, BE ISSUED ON CAMAIR TICKET PAPER AND THAT ALL INTERNAL FLIGHTS IN CAMEROON BE ISSUED ON SAME TICKET PAPER. THE ONLY EXCEPTIONS WILL BE PERMITTED WHEN A FOREIGN AIRLINE HAS SIGNED AN INTERLINE AGREEMENT WITH CAMAIR AND HAS AN APPROVAL OF MIN TRANSPORT.

2. FIRST EFFECTS OF DECREE INCLUDE THE CLOSING OF UTA, ALITALIA AND OTHER WORLD AIRLINE AGENCIES IN YAOUNDE AND ELSEWHERE AND NECESSITY TO PICK UP ALL OUTSTANDING UNUSED TICKETS. INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES IN CAMEROON HAVE FOUND YAOUNDE TO BE MOST PROFITABLE SALES AREA AND ARE PLANNING MEETING THIS WEEK TO DECIDE ON PROPER REACTION TO MEASURE.

3. INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF NEW DECREE ARE POTENTIALLY MORE SERIOUS. MOST AIRLINES OPERATING THROUGH CAMEROON HAVE SIGNED OR WILL SIGN BILATERAL INTERLINE AGREEMENTS WITH CAMAIR. HOWEVER FOREIGN AIRLINES WHO HAVE LITTLE OR NO INTEREST IN GOING THROUGH NEGOTIATION PROCEDURES WITH CAMAIR WILL NO LONGER HAVE RIGHT TO ISSUE THROUGH TICKETS. IF CIRCULAR TOURS MUST BE BROKEN THROUGH NECESSITY OF TRAVELER TO PURCHASE CAMAIR TICKET BETWEEN DOUALA AND YAOUNDE. TO TAKE AN EXAMPLE THE COSTS WILL BE CONSIDERABLY HIGHER TO THE TRAVELER (BECAUSE OF THE BROKEN TICKET) AND MANY AIRLINES WILL SIMPLY NOT ROUTE PEOPLE THROUGH CAMEROON IF ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE ROUTING IS AVAILABLE. IN OTHER CASES, CAMAIR, AS A NON- IATA CARRIER, DOES NOT HAVE UNIVERSAL RECOGNITION OF ITS TICKETS, AND IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY FOR A TRAVELER FROM YAOUNDE TRANSITING EUROPE TO THE U. S. TO CHANGE HIS TICKET TO AN IATA AIRLINE AT THE TRANSIT POINT.

4. THE AIRLINE HIT HARDEST BY THE DECREE IS UTA WHICH HAS EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO CARRY FRENCH TECHNICAL ADVISERS BETWEEN CAMEROON AND FRANCE FOR THEIR ANNUAL HOLIDAYS ETC. MOST OF THE 2000 PLUS ADVISERS ARE RESIDENT IN YAOUNDE AREA, AND THE REQUIREMENT ISSUE THEM TICKETS ON CAMAIR TICKETS STATIONARY COULD BE A SUBSTANTIAL PLUM TO THE NATIONAL AIRLINE.

5. MANY DETAILS ON DECREE YET TO BE WORKED OUT DEPARTMENT WILL BE KEPT INFORMED OF IMPLICATIONS DECREE FOR U. S. TRAVELERS. ESPECIALLY, ETC.

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CLARKE

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